

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4-6, 11, and 14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2, 3, 7-10, 12-13, and 15 are amended for form without narrowing the claims within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

New claims 16-22 are presented.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the amended and new claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 7-10, 12-13, and 15-22 are pending and under consideration.

ITEMS 9-10: ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicates that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action. (Action at page 9).

The Examiner also indicates that claims 2-3, 7-10, 13 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Action at page 9). Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 12 is amended herein to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph,.

Claims 2-3 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of former base claim 1 (now cancelled). Dependent claims 7, 13, and 15 are amended herein accordingly, and claims 8-9 are dependent on claim 7.

Withdrawal of the objection to claims 2-3, 7-10, 13 and 15 is requested

ITEM 1: OBJECTION TO CLAIMS 7 AND 12

The Examiner objects to claims 7 and 12 because of the following informalities: The Examiner contends:

In claim 7 (and 12), line 3, "for other character pattern" is not grammatically correct. There may be some word or words missing. . . . In claim 7, lines 3-4, "said character recognition result is exchanged by said other character" is not clear. Also, "said other character" lacks clear antecedent basis.

(Action at page 2).

Claims 7 and 12 are amended herein to correct the informalities. Withdrawal of the

objection is requested.

ITEM 4: REJECTION OF CLAIM 12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Examiner rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner suggests the claims be amended to "be drawn to a computer readable recording medium . . . and that the method comprises the recited steps." (Action at page 3).

Claim 12 is amended as suggested by the Examiner and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

ITEM 6: JOINT INVENTORS

In item 6, the Examiner indicates that in considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant submits that both inventors jointly invented all subject matters of the two Japanese patent applications serial no. 2000-334296 filed on November 1, 2000 and serial no. 2001-140140 filed on May 10, 2001 and the subject matter of claims were owned by the same applicant.

NEW CLAIMS

New dependent claims 16-21, dependent on base claim 3, recite features as recited in claims 7-10, 13 and 15 that are dependent on base claim 2.

New claim 22 recites a computer-readable storage recording medium storing a computer-readable program which controls a computer system to execute character recognition by the method as recited in claim 3.

These and other features of claims 16-21 patentably distinguish over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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